# The Pulpit

## A SERMON BY THE REV. IRA W. HENDERSON

Theme: Discipleship.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church, Hamburg avenue and Weirfield street, on the above theme, the pastor, Rev. Ira Westcott Henderson, took as his text 1 John 2:6: "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked." He said:

A disciple is a learner. He is a student who sits at the feet of a teacher and imbibes knowledge and wisdom. A disciple is a follower. One who walks after another. One who places his feet in the footprints of his predecessor, who studies to emulate the teaching and the practice of his guide.

Pre-eminently the disciples of Jesus Christ are students and followers. Students they are for the wisdom of God revealed in and through Him, the sweetest and the refinement of eternal and supernal truth. Distinctively they are followers, if they be true followers, and it is of such only that I care to speak peculiarly of the Lord. They seek to emulate His knowledge and to partake of His precepts and become conformed to the standards of life which He sets for His disciples. They glory in their special allegiance to Him. They exalt His overlordship and proclaim His principles and they confess to strive, by prayer and their profess to strive, They pray, and they profess to strive, to become like Him. And all this they do also, and especially because they believe it to be the Word of God that "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked."

This discipleship is the ambition of us all. It is the glory of practical Christianity. It is the outward evidence in large measure of the faith that moves within our souls as Christian men and women. It is a true standard of our worth as we walk among men.

But it is manifest that before we can practice the truth we must know it; that before we can follow we must have a vision of the leader, that there can be no footprints ahead that we may tread therein, that there must be example ere there will be precept. To say this is prosaic. But none the less it is necessary.

All of which is to say that if we are to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we must have some conception of His character and an understanding of the manner of life He lived. We must have a picture of the outstanding characteristics of His manhood.

It would be impossible in the space of time allotted to the sermon of this or of any other day to enumerate the virtues of our Saviour or to present comprehensively and fully the components of His character. To-night we shall consider simply four of the traits that we must possess and augment by His grace within us and express to His glory ere we, if we would be His disciples. And these traits are: 1, a large outlook; 2, a catholic spirit; 3, a militant right-eousness; 4, an optimistic foretaste. These we must have are we to follow Him and to follow the sort of disciple He bids us become.

Jesus had a large outlook. His horizon was boundless. His vision pierced the veil of time and penetrated the mysteries of eternity. He was not circumscribed by the limitations of His family relationships, nor by the boundaries of His birthplace, nor by the confines of Palestine. Much less was He concerned with the smallnesses and the meannesses of life which so dominate the minds and stultify the spirituality of so many of His followers. Jesus was so engrossed with the consideration of large things that He had no time to let little things annoy Him. He was so big promulgating principles and so electrifying them to men that He had no time for gossip. They were not His Christianity of the day is that it is so engrossed in the unessential that it has no time for the essential. We are prone to quarrel over the merest trifles. We are so busy with the small things that we have but precious little time or strength to attend to the great. We are so busy that we are so busy with gossip that we forget the great activities of discipleship. The disciples of our Lord are greatly to be censured for their proclivity to gossip and become conformed to the standards of the world in which His disciples. They glory in their special allegiance to Him. Their exalted overlordship and proclaim His principles and their profess to strive, They pray, and their profess to strive, to become like Him. And all this they do also, and especially because they believe it to be the Word of God that "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked."

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